巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

- Chapter 15 -

THE GREAT MERCHANT KIM MANDUK

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

This is a korean webtoon and the original can be found at www.naver.com

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TGMKM ch 15

Credits

Translator: Avoki
Proofreader: Tallrice
Cleaner: stl
Typesetter: Tsunao
QC: Claudia

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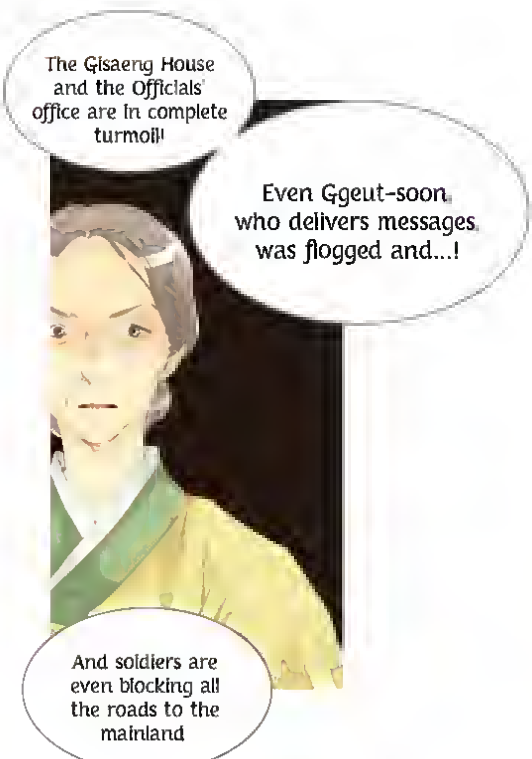
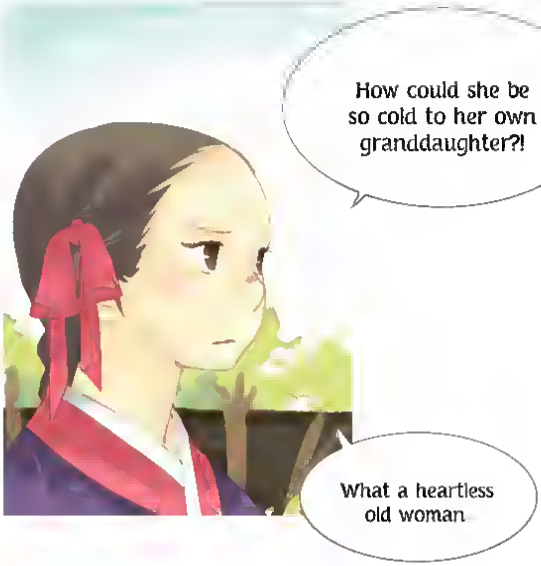
W-What did you just say? Manduk.... Did what?

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?!
MANDUK ELOPED LAST NIGHT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, JUNG HONGSU!

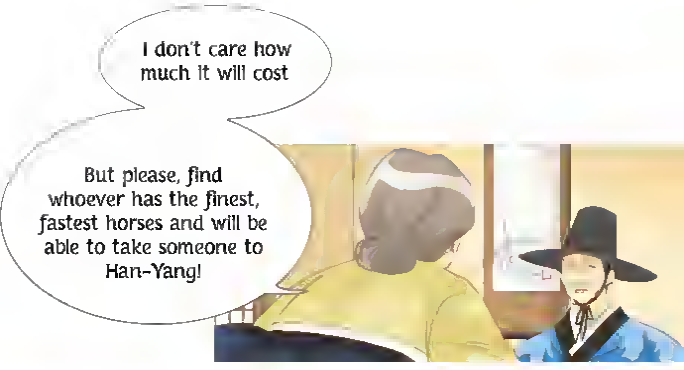
Official... Jung... Hongsu?
YES!


The Gisaeng House and the Officials' office are in complete turmoil!
Even Ggeut-soon, who delivers messages, was flogged and...!
And soldiers are even blocking all the roads to the mainland

Oh?
GRANNY!
GRANNY!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
GRANNY!!


How could she be so cold to her own granddaughter?!
What a heartless old woman

What?


I don't care how much it will cost
But please, find whoever has the finest, fastest horses and will be able to take someone to Han-Yang!

S-Someone who'll travel to Hanyang...?
I'm afraid that's not really possible...

PLEASE!
I BEG OF YOU!
WE MUST LEAVE THIS INSTANT!!

.....
I won't ask the reason,
But I'll look for somewhere you can hide without worry
Thank you.

There is no need to thank me...

You were the first...
To appreciate our life-risking efforts and help us.

I'm only paying back our debt.

This house belongs to an old lady. No one will give it a second glance if her grandson and his wife stay for a visit.

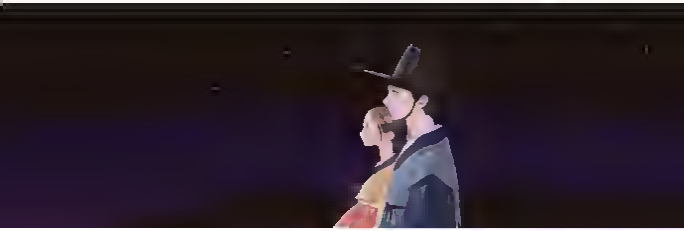
I'll try my best to provide as much rice and whatever else I can afford.
Since this is just a village of female divers... The chances of a search are very slim.

Please stay without worry.

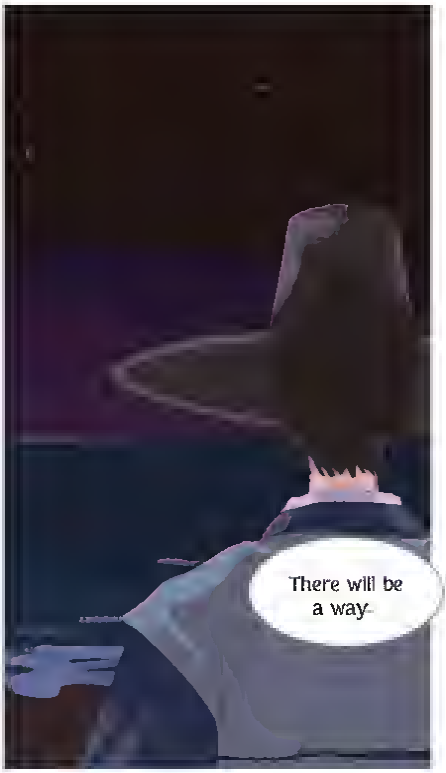
This for the rice.
Don't trouble yourself. I cannot accept that.

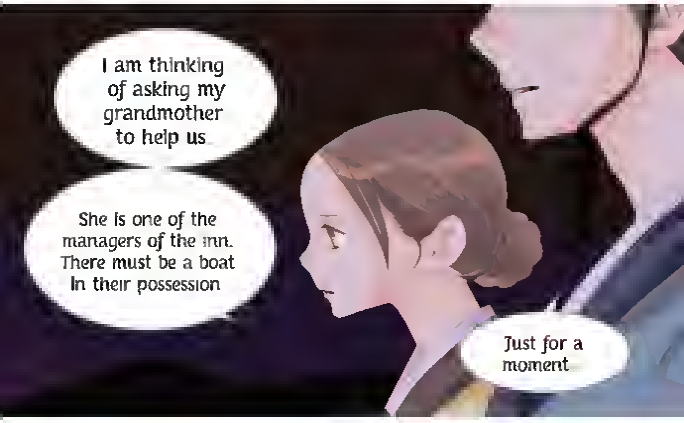
Please take it.
I don't want to be indebted to you for feeding us too.

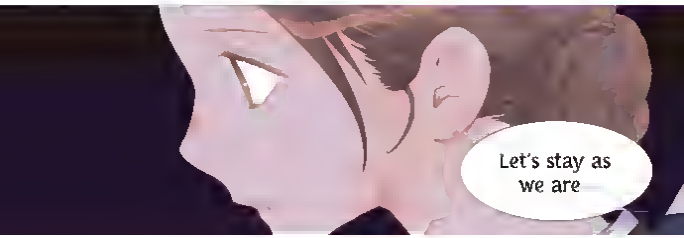
Shh...



Will we...
Be able to take the boat?

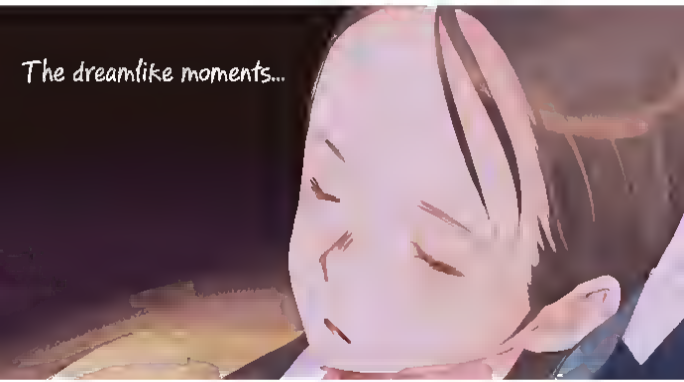

There will be a way.


I am thinking of asking my grandmother to help us
She is one of the managers of the inn. There must be a boat in their possession
Just for a moment

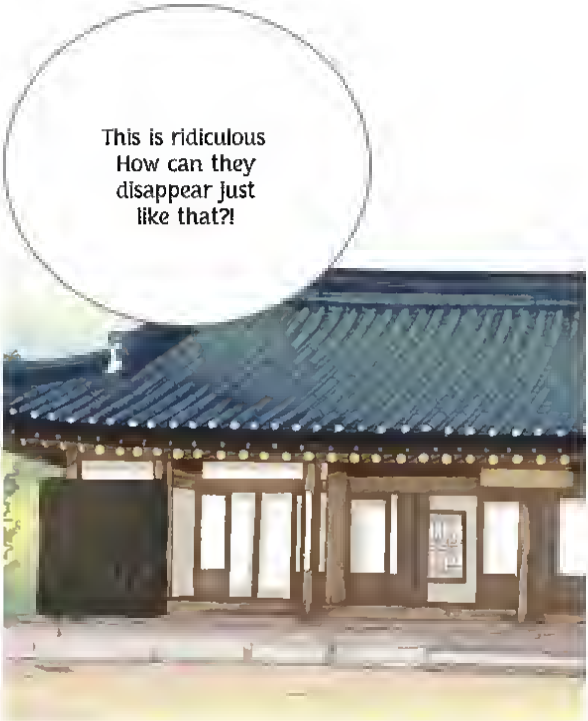

Let's stay as we are

It'll be a long and tiring road...
Just for a moment, let's stay like this.

All the dream-like moments...
Let us hold onto them if only for a short time.


The dreamlike moments...

Don't ever
let them shatter.


This is ridiculous
How can they
disappear just
like that?!

Someone is hiding them.
Hiding... Them?

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Manhwa Oh EunJ
Story Shin Ji Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu. Konshik
Webtoon Editing Park. Shoon
Original KBS

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It has been a long time.

You have no shame
How dare you show your face here?!
But am I any worse than you?

How could you let Eun-Hong's daughter stay in my house?

Heavens. I had no idea it was that wretch's daughter.
And to think I raised her as my own!

There must be someone up in the heavens...
To see you raise her to best of your abilities, and get nothing in return
...
Where are they?
Hand them over while I am still asking nicely.

You are a fool who would ask for a baby before pregnancy

The moment you took her as a Gisaeng, she had nothing more to do with me.
A criminal's daughter is also a criminal
Please don't push me into making a fuss.
How am I supposed to hand her over when I have not heard from her for so long?

Criminal

Now that you mention it let me ask you something Isn't taking an aristocrat's illegitimate daughter as a lowly Gisaeng a crime as well?
!

Aristocrat's illegitimate daughter... You must talking about His Excellency Kim Hun?
Pft!
Well... let me put it this way...

The moment Kim Hun admits she is his child, he, too, is a criminal.

I believe that he is the head of Pyeongsiseo – you think he would admit this when he could lose everything?

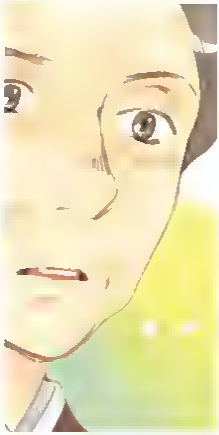
After killing so many children in the womb,

You must have lost the ability to understand the feelings of a parent

Even if you had to carry a bag of straw into a cave of fire, any parent would want to save their child.

Those are the feelings of a parent!

Ha...
Let's make a deal.
If Kim Hun admits that Manduk is his daughter, I will concede defeat.
I will take Manduk's name off the Gisaeng List.



You have
come far, Sir.

?
Did you...
Say that you made my daughter official property...?

Slap!!
HOW DARE YOU!!
YOU DARE TO MAKE MY DAUGHTER... INTO A LOWLY GISAENG?!!
DO YOU EXPECT TO LIVE AFTER YOU COMMITTED SUCH A THING?!
MY DAUGHTER... MY DAUGHTER MANDUK...

Manduk...

Manduk...

You have my thanks.
For telling me.
I apologize for bothering you.

There is nothing to apologize for.
In fact, you just saved me from my suffering.

巨商 김만덕

Manhwa Oh, EunJi
Story Shin, Ji-Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu, Konshik
Webtoon Editing Park, Sihoon
Original KBS

The artist was pregnant while she was working on this webtoon and she took a leave to give birth to her child before continuing it ^_^

되도록 휴재없이 연재를 완결시키고 싶었으나,
정신없이 달려오다보니, 어느덧 이번 달
출산을 앞두고 있네요

거상 김만덕을 재밌게 봐주고 계신
독자 여러분들께 너무 죄송합니다
건강한 아이를 출산하고,
저도 건강해진 심신으로 다시 돌아오겠습니다

염치 없지만 순산을 기원해 주세요 (자연분만!모유수유!!)
연재 재개에 대한 일정은 추후 다시 공지 올리겠습니다

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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 17

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TGMKM ch 17

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Proofreader: Tallrice
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QC: Claudia

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Both you and Eun-Hong...
Are cruel people.
Cruel but...
A woman's strength is truly as massive as a boulder, sometimes.

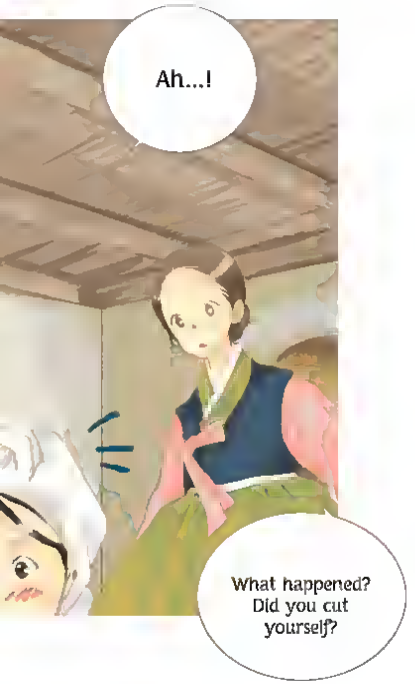
So, I assume Manduk hasn't been contacted?
I think she will contact me.

She doesn t have a way to go to the mainland, so she must contact me to find a way.

To the East Peddler's Inn?
That's right. See if they will buy some sea urchins from us.
Show that to the vice-head.

It must be the grandmother vice-head!
Yes. Don't worry!

Why do you trade sea urchins with the East Peddler's Inn and not the West Peddler's Inn?
The East Peddler's Inn makes better Pickled Sea Urchins.
So the East Peddler's Inn takes more Sea Urchins.


Ah...!
What happened? Did you cut yourself?

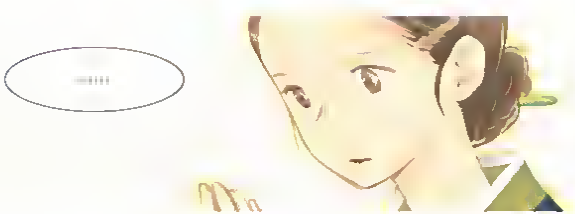
Look at this. It's a pearl.
It sometimes comes out of scallops.
When a diver finds a pearl he must buy everyone a meal.
This tiny thing sells for ten Nyang.

T/N NYANG OR 냥 — IS THE CURRENCY OF ANCIENT KOREA.
IT IS A MEASURE OF WEIGHT. AND 1 NYANG IS 37.5g. 16 NYANG BECOMES 1 GEUN

Ten Nyang...?

Isn't that price much too low for something of this value?
Excuse me?

Do you know how much a pearl sells for after it has been polished?
We're not in the place to even view such items...
So we don't know the price for them

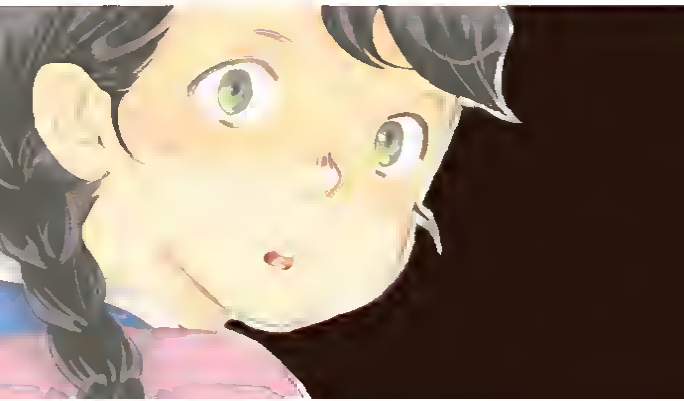

.....

Vice-Head Grandma?
Yes

I must see the Vice-Head granny.

Okay. Wait a moment.
Slides.
Yes, Sir~!

Approach



Oh? Where did she go?
She said she had to meet the Vice-Head...

Do we have a sea urchin supplier for our inn?
Sea Urchin?

Ha...!
I knew it would be like this.
Who else would you contact?

DEOK-SOO!
DEOK-SOO!
I need you to go to the government's office.

Manduk...!

So, this is the place you were hiding.

Which house it is?!
Tell me right now before I search the entire village.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO BEHEAD YOUR PARENTS?!

Over... There... Sung-Ahn's House...
My parents didn't do anything wrong.. Please don't kill them...
Sob..
Sob...

Swirk-

Who is Sung-Ahn?
Where is her house?!

巨商 김만덕

Manhwa Oh EunJ
Story Shin Ji Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu. Konshik
Webtoon Editing Woo EunJ
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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

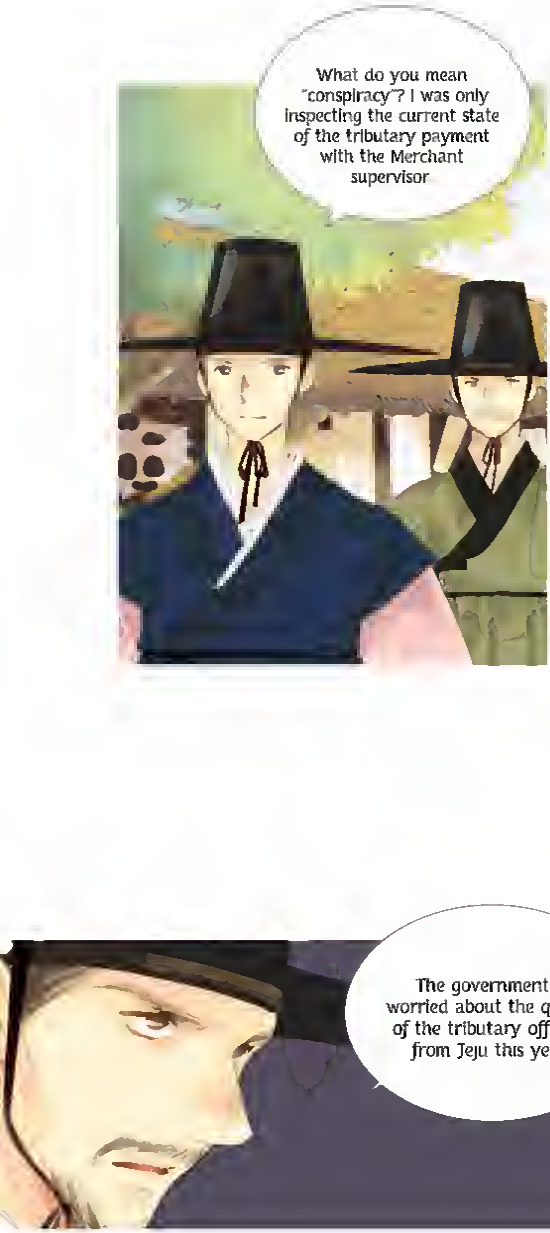
Chapter 18

What have we done to have the honour of your visit, Hyun-Gam?

Jung.. Hong.. Su!!

Are you the Jeju Island's Hyun-Gam? I am the Merchant Supervisor from Hanyang, 'Kim Hun'.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS CONSPIRACY?

T/N: A HYUN-GAM IS THE BOSS OF A CERTAIN AREA OF LAND
A MERHCANT SUPERVISOR (PYEONGSISEO) HAS MORE POWER THAN A HYUN-GAM.


What do you mean "conspiracy"? I was only inspecting the current state of the tributary payment with the Merchant supervisor
The government is worried about the quality of the tributary offering from Jeju this year.

However, from what I hear from the divers, the harvest has been a great success compared with other years...

How is this possible?
Perhaps the Hyun-Gam has a little more insight to this situation?

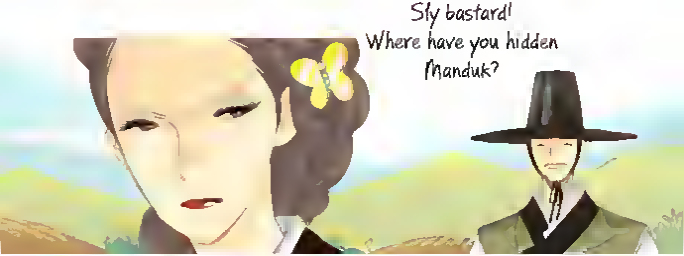
We have almost finished the inspection. and were planning to head back Do you have any matters to handle over here?
Not at all. I have accomplished what I meant to accomplish by coming here – to welcome the Bong-Sa!

T/N: BONG-SA IS ANOTHER TITLE – A WORKER FOR THE GOVERNMENT.. IN ROUGH TRANSLATION.

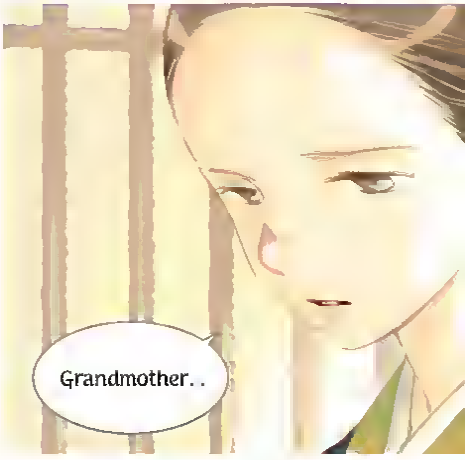
Then why don't we head back together?

.....

I had no idea that the welcome parades for government officials in Jeju were this grand!
Soldiers as well as a Gisaeng... why, this parade is fit for a king.
Haha Haha Haha Haha...


Sly bastard! Where have you hidden Manduk?

So, what do you plan to do next?


Grandmother..

If...
If my mother ran away with my father, what would have happened?

I don't know...
Would they have been happy?

Happy..?
Tap Tap..

If wandering isolated lands...
And hiding until they die is happiness.. Then they would have been happy

But, Manduk
What is being human?
Just because you have been born with the mask of a human, it does not make you into one.
You must complete the ways of humanity to finally become human

Being a son,
being a parent,
being a citizen
isn't all this part
of being human?

Let go of Hongsu.

You cannot force him to let go of everything that makes him human just for you.
Are you not in suffering because you know that already?

I don't think you are from this world.
I'll be back...
Most certainly...
The little girl in my heart...
I've lived my life to meet her.

Yes,
Grandmother.
As we are born humans
and we should live accordingly.
At the very least,
We should be able to
live as human beings.

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Manhwa Oh, EunJi
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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

CHAPTER 19

MANDUK!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

Doryun-nim, you should go back to Hanyang.
No way! Like I'd leave you here and go alone?!
Manduk . No! We were finally able to meet after all these hardships!

Doryun-nim...

I want to live my life as a virtuous person.

T/N: Pyeongsiseo aka official inspector or Sir Kim

My father...
My mother wanted to save my father so much, that she ended up throwing her life away.
How could I dare to make my father a criminal again?

Then...
Are you going to live here forever as a gisaeng??
Is that the virtuous life you're talking about?
That is why I called for Pyeongsiseo elder
Please help me remove my name from the gisaeng list.

I want nothing else
Please... help me with this one thing
How are you planning to live?

I felt something after meeting the female divers

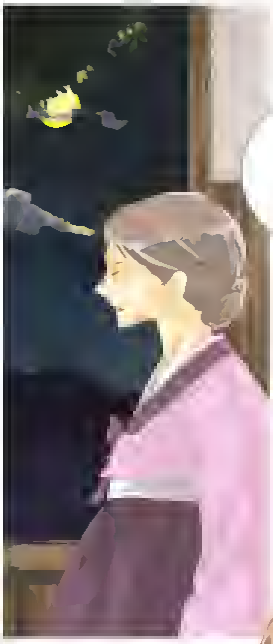
They risk their life doing their work, but the rewards they receive are unreasonably small

This problem is not only regarding female divers

I believe the same thing happening to everyone else... farmers, miners, fishermen..

Whoever is powerless and venerable could be in the same situation

I want to be someone who pays reasonable rewards for their labor
I want to pay a legitimate price for their effort and their sweat,
and I want to sell their products at a fair price to make a profit.



Grandma was alarmed when I told her. Saying, "Don't even think about that."

But...I've decided to be a peddler.

Your mother...

Was a very beautiful woman.
A woman you could not help but love and cherish

It was long ago...
But, from the moment
I ran into you
I realised how
much I missed
you and your
mother

You knew
that I was your
daughter?

Your grandmother came to me and begged me to help you.
But when I raided the minister of justice's house, you were already gone.

...And, we finally meet here again.

That's enough
for me

Manduk. .

Why don't you call me 'father'?

I don't want to.
If I call you father...
You'll become a criminal who had an affair with official female nurse.

You loved my mother...
and you missed me...
I'm happy with that...

To be continued..

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Manhwa Oh EunJr
Story Shin Jr Sang

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QC: Claudia

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巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Mandŏk

CHAPTER 20

What can I say.

...to you who even cut your
relationship with your father?

You'd never agree to
become my woman.

I believe...
...that this isn't the end of our story

My love for you will always be within my heart...
...and I believe that it will be the same with you too.

It was your wish to go to Mount Kumgang together.
I will also live dreaming for that day

Clack clop
I know myself too.
It will be a more realistic dream
to hang on to Hongsu doryun-nim

Neighhhhh
And beg him to keep me as his concubine...

But I am an ambitious girl...
sob sob...
Even if I only have one day to live...

I want to live doing my duty as a human

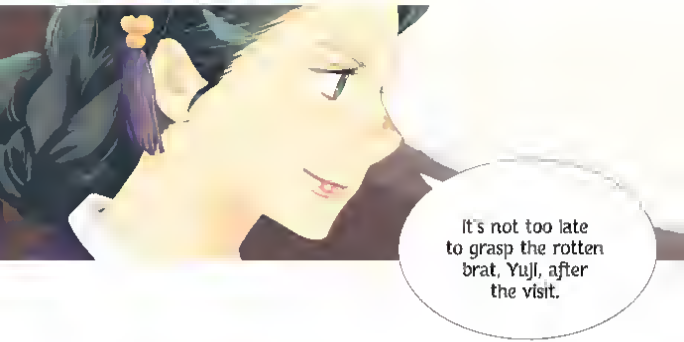
But at the same time...

I feel as though a thousand daggers have stabbed my heart.

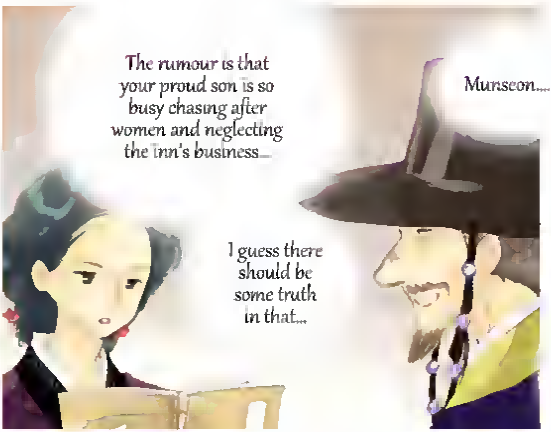
I'm so afraid of the days that I will be living without Doryun-nim

So this is Jeju Island!
I had heard it was beautiful but I never thought that it'd be like a Utopia.
Will you go straight to the peddler's inn?
No. I will visit the local gov. office first. I should let Hyun-gam* know that I'm here.

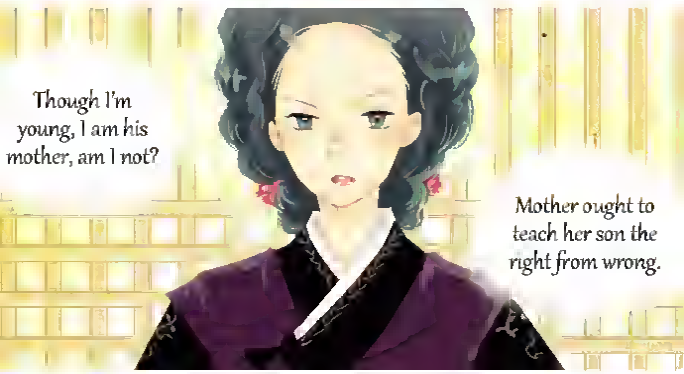
*T/N Hyun-gam = The boss of a certain area of land


It's not too late to grasp the rotten brat, Yuji, after the visit.

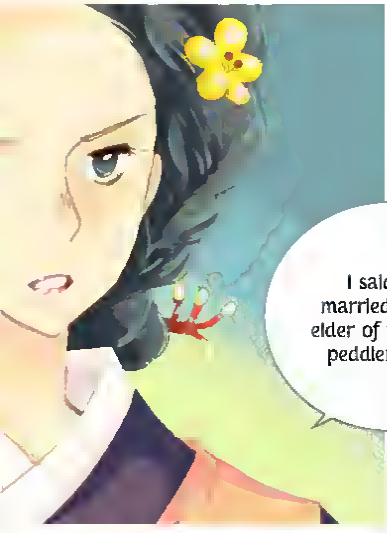
Look at all these! What happened to the Inn's finances? Except for using the power of the gov. and extorting money from the people..
Don't ask me...


The rumour is that your proud son is so busy chasing after women and neglecting the Inn's business...
Munseon...
I guess there should be some truth in that...

I should go
and check this
myself

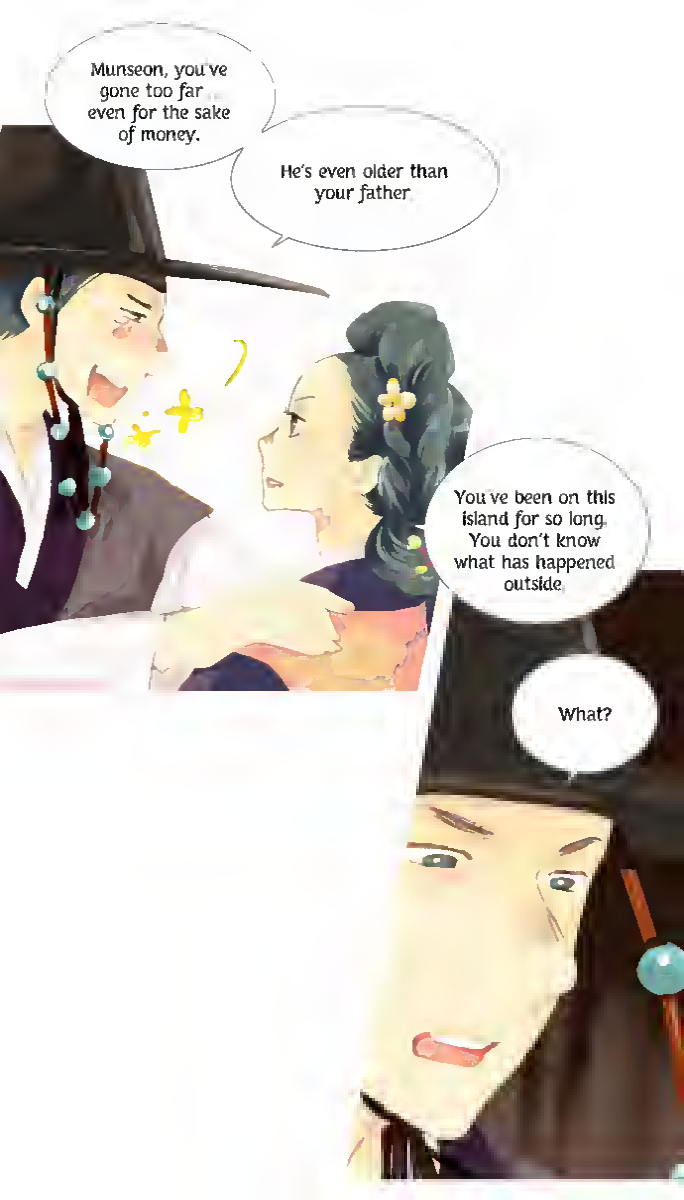

Though I'm
young, I am his
mother, am I not?
Mother ought to
teach her son the
right from wrong.

WHAT?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?


I said I'm married to the elder of the west peddler's inn.

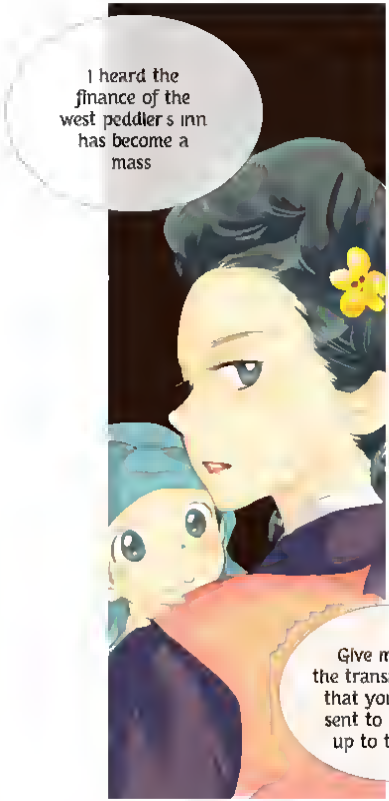
You... mean you are my second mother,
And this little brat is my brother?! Huh?

HaHaHaHa...
He must have gone senile,
to marry the little girl who he's been raising ever since she was a little child.


Munseon, you've gone too far even for the sake of money.
He's even older than your father.
You've been on this island for so long. You don't know what has happened outside.
What?

Your mother passed away last year.
I'm not the second wife, I am his only wife
Nod Nod

Do you grasp the situation now?


I heard the finance of the west peddler s inn has become a mass
Give me all of the transaction lists that you haven t sent to Hanyang up to this day

Tsk Tsk. .
How could he not be able to make some money in this place where there is a path open to Japan and Shanghai.

*T/N: A private group of merchant or trader to watch over the market

巨商 김만덕

Manhwa Oh EunJ
Story Shin Ji-Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu Konshik
Webtoon Editing Woo EunJi
Original KBS

To be continued...

THE GREAT MERCHANT KIM MANDUK

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

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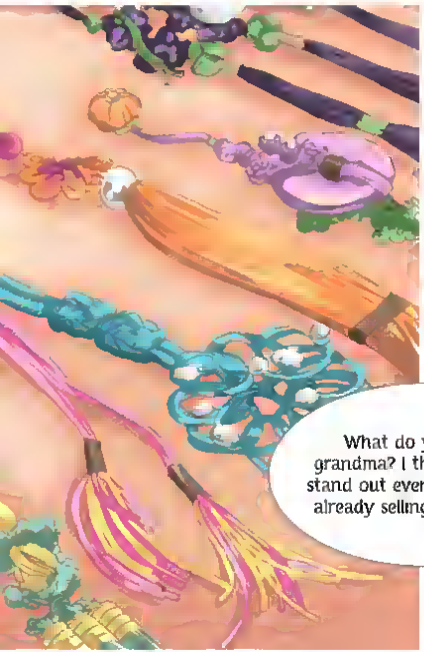
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 21


What do you think, grandma? I think these will stand out even among those already selling in Hanyang.

So, you got these to market after organizing the female divers with the craftsmen?
Yes, grandma. I cut out the middle-man. This will let me give the divers a fair price for the pearls,
and lower the sales price, too.

You managed to think up something quite useful, I see

However, I still can t regard you as a merchant after only this.
Nevertheless, from now on, if you consistently prove yourself, then I will honor you with the title of merchant.

I can do it!!
I will earn my place among the merchants!!

Being a merchant is not an easy occupation.
One day, you may only have your smile to sell, or have to give up everything for a good deal

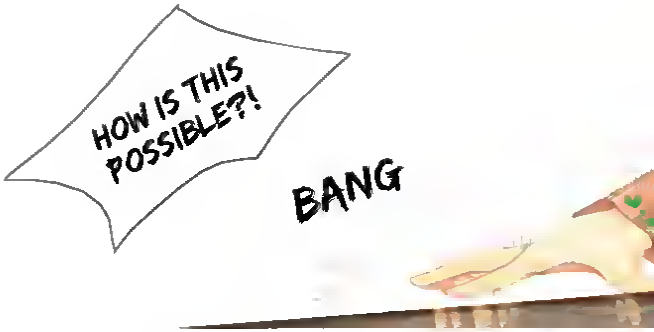
A merchant's smile builds trust with a customer. So, a smile is nothing to be ashamed of...

On the other hand, I just might give up everything if the most fabulous price were offered.

You think like a good merchant already.

Haha...

But please grandma, take care of me.


HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?!
BANG

HOW IS IT THAT LATELY, EVERY ITEM ENDS UP AT THE EAST PEDDLER'S INN, WHETHER IT ARRIVES IN TOWN BY LAND OR SEA?!
EVEN WHEN A RICH OFFER IS MADE, NO ONE ACCEPTS IT! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?!

Well, they say this turn of events is all because of the new chief deputy at the East Peddler's Inn.

The people are saying that the chief deputy s word is so valued that it is more trustworthy than a written contract.

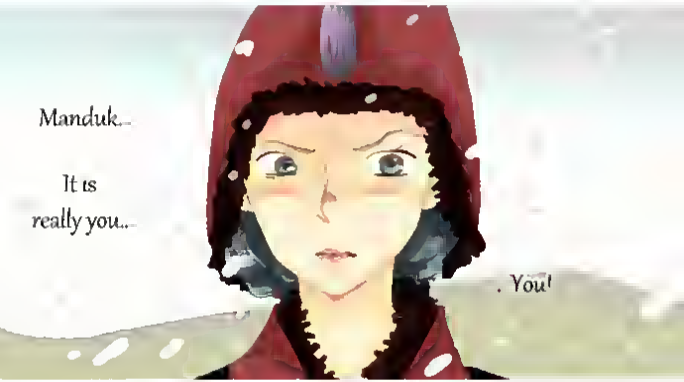
Chief deputy?

What kind of man is he to have such a reputation?
Not a man, but a woman!

Named Kim Manduk.

People say that she used to be a prostitute under the Jeju government

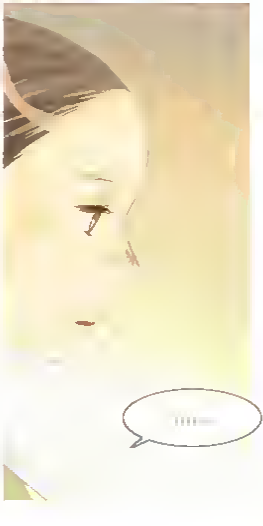
But whether you speak with female divers, the fishermen, or even the brokers
They all say that if Kim Manduk is involved, the deal will always be in the clear


Manduk..
It is
really you..
. You!

What did you say?
Apparently Myo-Hyang, that deceitful snake, is dying
That's what I'm saying
Finally getting what she deserves
The poison from all the people she hurt throughout her life is finally catching up with her.

What s the matter with her?
Why do you ask? Don t tell me you're planning to visit her?

There's no reason to be so harsh with the dying.
Ha! Your heart must be shaped like Buddha's and as wide as the East Sea.
I, for one, still can't sleep whenever I think of that snake!


Hmm...

WHAT?!
Manduk— Ehm . Um... I mean the deputy of East Peddler s Inn has come to see you

Has she
lost her mind?
How dare she return
to this place!
Ha...

Nevermind!
Bring her in.

Have you come to laugh at me, face-to-face now that I am dying?
Does this make you feel superior to me now?
I have heard that the continuous consumption of opium has weakened your health greatly

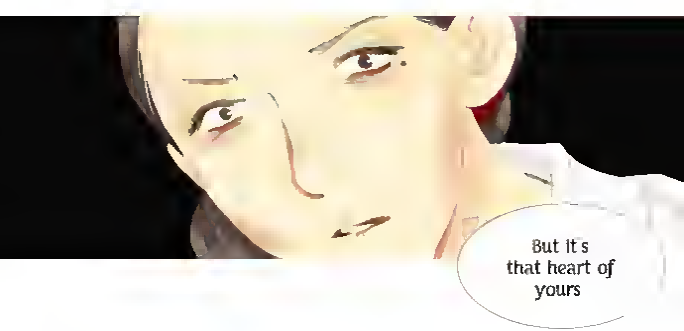
You may remember that both my mother and grandmother were fluent in the art of healing. I also studied the art from a young age
This medicine will help you regain vitality and purify your blood. Take it twice a day- morning and evening

You.. Crazy bitch....
SHOULD I BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVEN'T POISONED THIS?!
IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES, WOULD YOU TAKE THIS? I'LL NEVER TOUCH IT!! YOU THOUGHT I WOULDN'T CONSIDER THE RISK?!
.....

I pity you...

Don't you agree that pitying you when you're at death's door is the harshest and coldest revenge?
So, why on earth would I harm you now?

What's killing you now isn't the disease


But it's that heart of yours

To be continued...

巨商

김만덕

Manhwa Oh EunJi
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巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

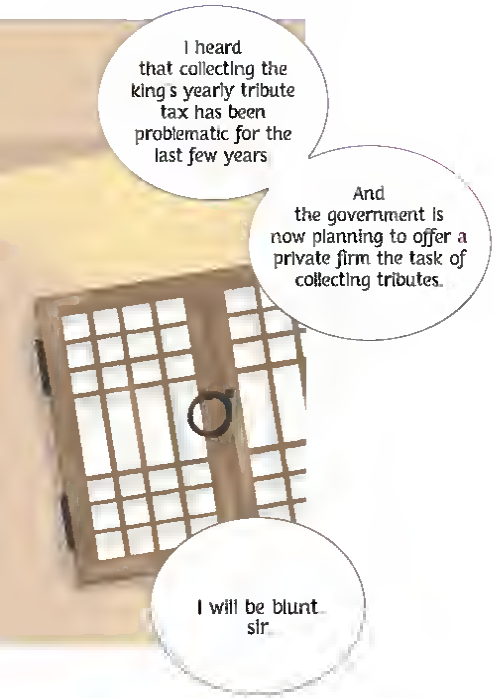
Chapter 22

wh-what are these?

I heard that your household was hosting an important event
I know this isn't much, but I hope you would accept this gift from me.
Hmm, I see I can t possibly refuse such kindness

Please sir, compared to everything you've done for the West Peddler's Inn, this is nothing.
Haha! You have brought the very finest as always!
Such expensive jewels~

Then, could I kindly ask for a favor?


I heard that collecting the king's yearly tribute tax has been problematic for the last few years
And the government is now planning to offer a private firm the task of collecting tributes.
I will be blunt sir.

Please
give that task
to us.

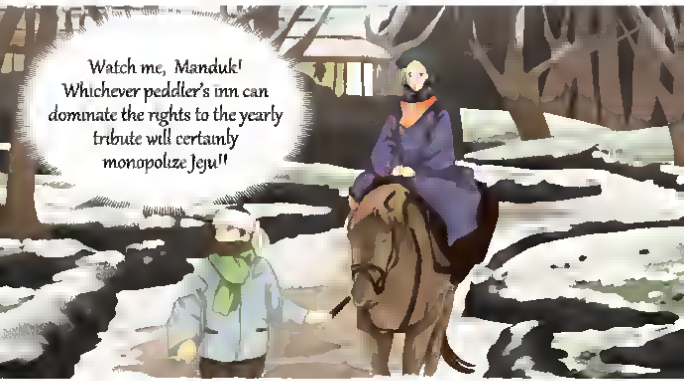
If you grant us
our wish,
Your kindness
will be engraved in
my bones I shall
never forget.

TAP
I can t possibly do that

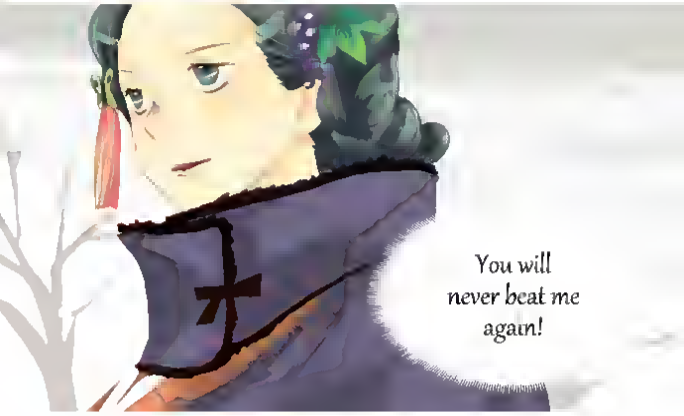
The Pyeongshiseo is watching us carefully
The right to collect the tribute will be decided after a fair examination of all the local peddler's inns

Glance

whisper
Find a skilful navigator who knows his way to Kang-Jin Don t forget to recruit a lot of rowers as well
yes!!

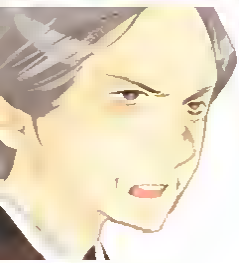

Watch me, Manduk! Whichever peddler's inn can dominate the rights to the yearly tribute will certainly monopolize Jeju!!

You...


You will never beat me again!

Are you saying this is a competition?
A ship carrying the annual tribute has sunk again near Wando
The Jeju government no longer seems to have any ships to carry the tribute.

Are you saying this is a competition?
They say the first firm to get the tribute safely to Hanyang will earn the right to carry the fortune to the king.



To say sailing to Wando now is "tough" is an understatement. The only way to Wando in the winter is on a ship with the Grim Reaper himself

The East Peddler's Inn is the dominant firm in Jeju. We do not have to take unnecessary risks to gain more contracts.

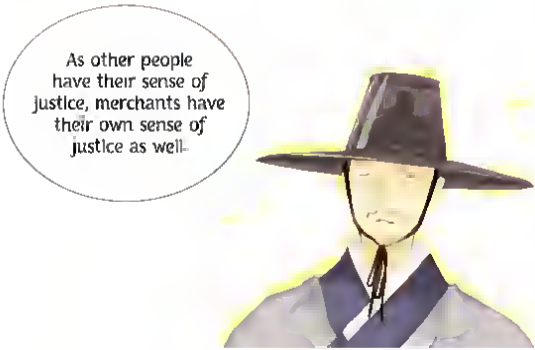
But if we don't compete, who'll get the contract for the tribute offering task?

It would obviously be the West Peddler's Inn.

Then, we must compete
Manduk!!

Conspiracy between the West Peddler's Inn and the Jeju government has reached a ridiculous level
What is a tribute to the king? It's the product of the people's blood and sweat.
If the West Peddler's Inn gains the right to the tribute offerings, then all the blood and sweat of the commoners will be wasted like salt washed away by the rain

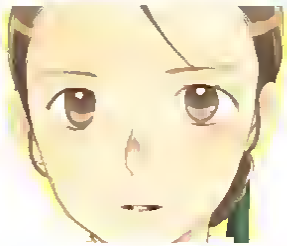
Grandmother, we are only fully human if we show each other justice. You said so, yourself


As other people have their sense of justice, merchants have their own sense of justice as well.

But to reach Kang-Jin, we must travel through Wando.

No, we're not heading to Kang-Jin, but to Kang-Hwa.
Instead of travelling by land, we will cross the Han River from Kang-Hwa to reach Hanyang.

This way, we will be able to reach Hanyang faster than the West Peddler's Inn, who will be trying to reach Hanyang through Kang-Jin



Are you out of your mind?!

To reach the West Sea, you'll need to pass He-Ahn.

Don't you know yourself how terrible the sea will be at this time of the year?

With the sinking of so many ships carrying the king s tribute, there isn t a single household in the vicinity of Ae-Wol not in mourning.
There are only a handful of navigators and shipmen left, and the good ones have already been recruited by the West Peddler's Inn

Haha~
Grandmother, your worries have increased with your age

H-How dare you make fun of your own grandmother!!

巨商 김만덕

Manhwa Oh. EunJi
Story Shin J. Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu Konshik
Webtoon Editing Woo EunJi
Original KBS

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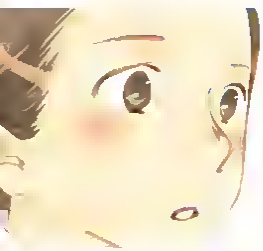
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 23

What should we do now? No one's willing to work for us.
There will be willing people eventually.



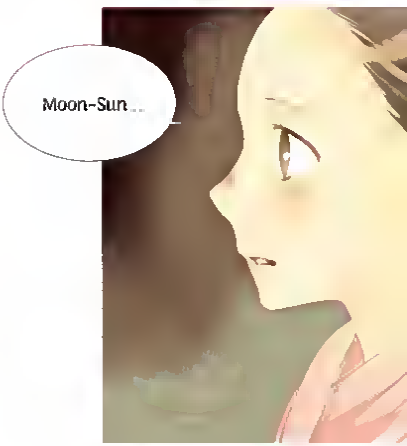
Uhm, who's this?
Isn't it the famous deputy of the East Peddler's Inn?

Don't tell me you don't recognize me!

How upsetting.

Moon... Sun?
Is it really you, Moon-Sun?!
How long has it been? Is it truly you?
Take your hands off of me!!
SLAP

You are still an embarrassment to yourself as always
Brush-


Moon-Sun...

I pity you. There probably aren't any shipmen left for the East Peddler's Inn by now.
We recruited the remaining handful of sea-worthy men for the West Peddler's Inn

You! You can't be the rumored new head of the West Peddler's Inn!

Tsk! Tsk! Your lack of knowledge is indeed shameful.
But please do try your best to win. Because then, your defeat will be that much more humiliating.
Ppt...

I will definitely not lose to you.

Moon-Sun
...

No luck so far?

Do you think that you'll be able to recruit in time to set sail for Kang-Hwa?

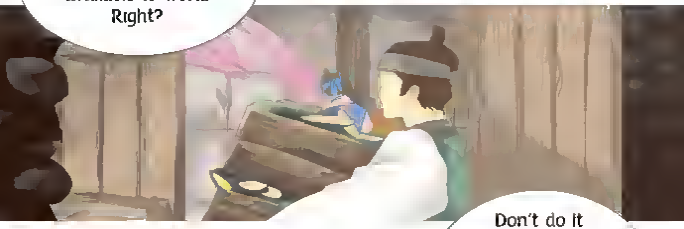
The collection of items for the tribute is growing quickly.

And you know what will happen to that stockpile if we don't set sail in time. Right?

.....

If I can't recruit locally, I might have to go over to Shin-Ahn to find a crew

There should be some men down there available to work. Right?



Don't do it. The shipmen over there might be good at navigating, but won't be strong enough for long journeys. You'd fail to make it to Kang-Hwa.

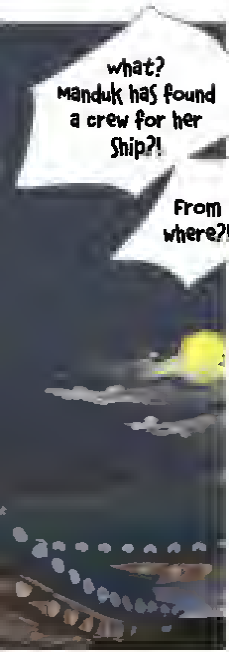
Where have these come from? They're huge!

They're from Geum Island.
Geum Island?

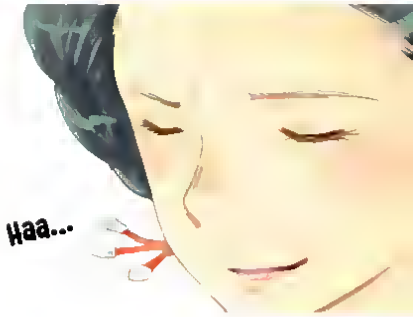
Even if the sea around it is hazardous, once you enter it, it's a paradise for fishermen!
Its size is almost double the normal size

who travels to Geum Island for this?
What's wrong?
Well, they come from Seogyuepo... Why?
Manduk!
where are you going?!

Those people are used to rough seas.
If we recruited those shipmen, sailing to Kang Hwa wouldn't be a problem!


what? Manduk has found a crew for her ship?!
From where?!

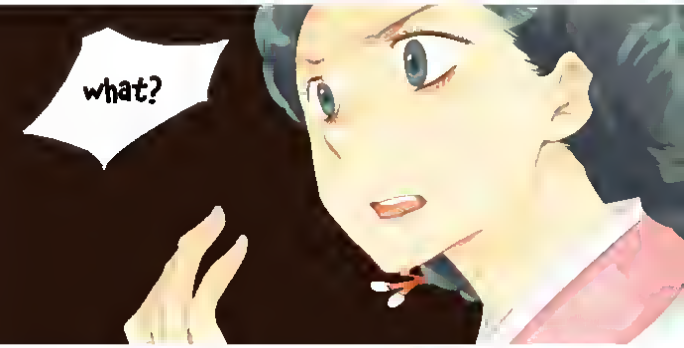
From Seogyuepo, milady. Those people are used to sailing the treacherous waters to Geum Island.


Haa...

Ahahaha!
??

She's indeed a fool who only knows half the story
What will she do with men who only have strength, but no skills in navigation?

Well. I heard that she's even now recruiting a captain for her ship.



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The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

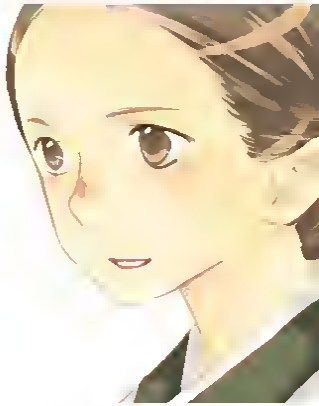
Chapter 24

It's true that I know the route to Kang-Hwa, yes...
Of course, since you must have already travelled to Hanyang to offer salt* as tribute from Sin-Ahn.

*T/N Salt was the local specialty of Sin Ahn.

However.. this is December. How do you plan to recruit a crew for your ship when they'll know all too well how rough the sea will be this time of year?

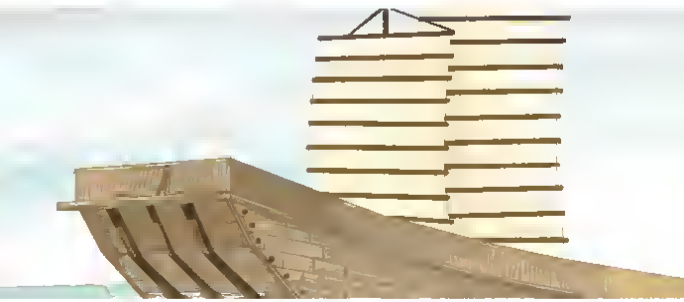
I have already finished recruiting. We are ready to set sail whenever you join us, captain.



This is the deed for a strip of land that produces around 50 soms* of rice per year.

*T/N 1 som = 5.2 US bushels

So, even if there is trouble en route to Kang-Hwa, your family will not starve.



You have really done it
Yes, grandmother.

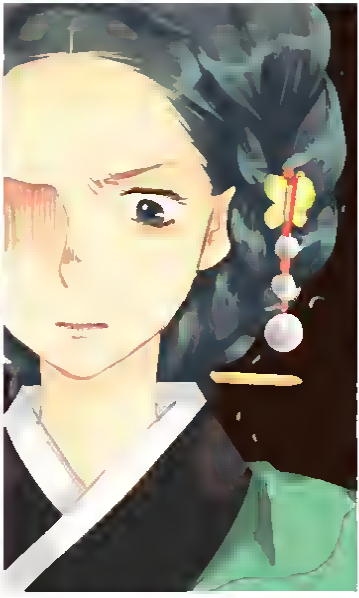
whisper...

What did you just say back there?
We're all having second thoughts about this journey. None of us have nine lives, after all.
Aren't we just sailing to our deaths?

Are you telling me that...
You have been scared for your life every time you've set sail as sailors?

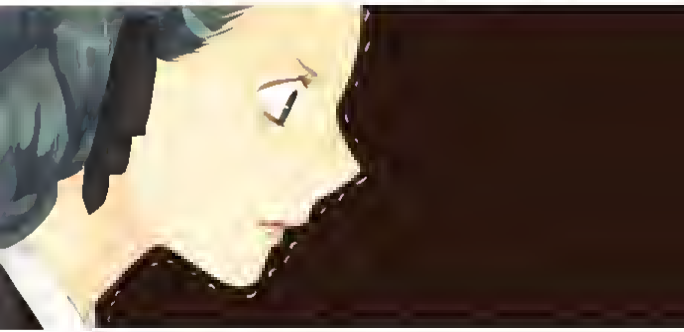
A man's life is in the hands of the heavens. Life's so frail anyone could easily die just lying on a bed of flowers
But does it make sense that a man who sails for a living is afraid of sailing?
Don't you dare say such things while you stand firmly on land.
Even if you have spent all your life as a sailor, it cannot be helped... The sea is something fearsome.
If that is the case, let me set sail with you

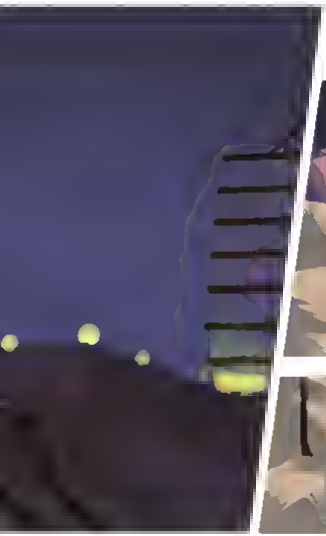
I'll put my life
in the balance with
all of yours.



Our apologies...
We can't possibly refuse her when she is willing to trust us...
with her life...

We really want to accompany her.





The ship must never set sail!!
Do you understand?! Burn it down if you must!!

CRACK!

Ku ku ku...

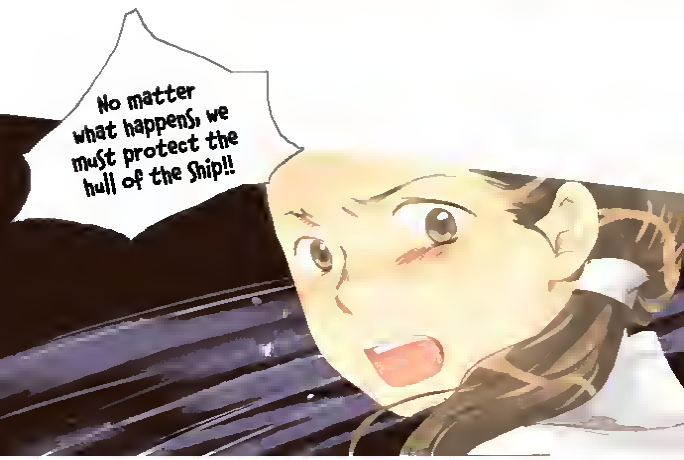
Crackle

FIRE-!!

FIRE-!!

THE SHIP...
IS ON FIRE!!
what is this?!
H...How did it happen?!

what is everyone doing?!
Soak your bedclothes with seawater and cover the tribute items!!
Throw the burning sails overboard!!



To be continued...

巨商

김만덕

Manhwa Oh EunJi
Story Shin Ji Sang

Planning & Supervise Yu Konshik
Webtoon Editing Woo EunJ
Original KBS

THE GREAT MERCHANT KIM MANDUK

by Sin Jisang & Oh Eunji

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TGMKM ch 25

Credits

Translator: Avoki
Proofreader: July-Junk-Food
Cleaner: stl
Typesetter: ruu
QC: Claudia

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巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 25

I refuse to lose...
to mere flames!!

I will not fall into fate's trap or be buried under pressure!!

Not even my social status shall suppress me!!

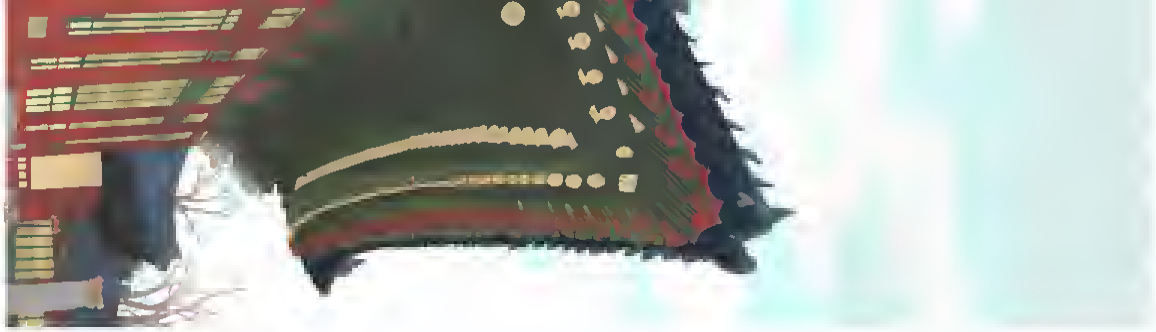
Even if I am a woman, with virtually no rights!!

I won't suffocate under any circumstance or accept defeat!!

She has finally left.
All we can do now is pray for a safe journey.

It's Hanyang-!!
YES!!

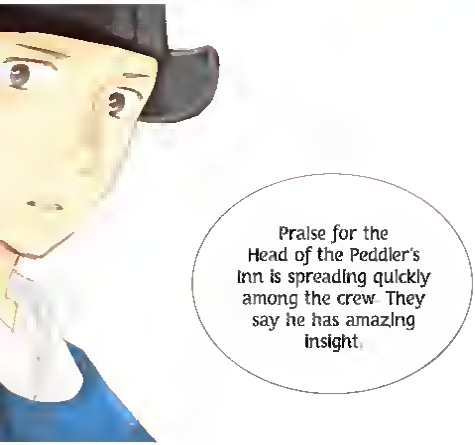
We've finally arrived at Hanyang!



Where did these tribute parcels come from?
Sir,
The shipment of Jeju Island's tributes has finally arrived.

Jeju?!

We had lots of trouble each year with ships sinking during their voyages from Jeju Island carrying the tribute shipments,
But apparently a private peddler's inn has brought the offering this year in one piece!


Praise for the Head of the Peddler's Inn is spreading quickly among the crew. They say he has amazing insight.

Manduk!!

It feels like a dream...
I also cannot believe it

Ah... Yes... What happened to my father...?
Don't worry, he is in good health

Hanyang has certainly changed a lot.
Well. It has been a long time since you last visited

Shall we go back in time?
What?
Why don't we enjoy ourselves like we did back then free and without any worry?

To be Continued.

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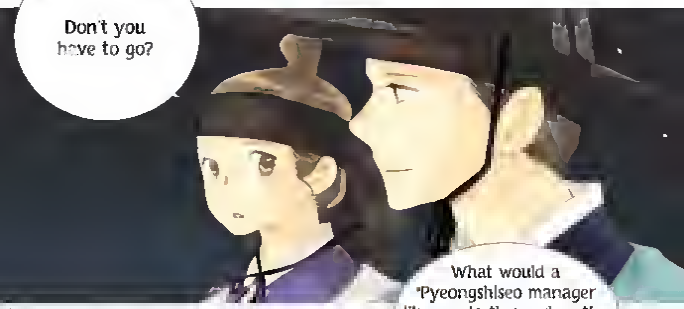
巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 24

What was that sound?
I'm not sure...

It was definitely the emergency horn blowing.


Don't you have to go?
What would a *Pyeongshiseo manager like me do there when the *Sahunbu and the *Pochung are around?
Is is very late, why don't you sleep for a bit?

T/N:
PYEONGSHISEO – A SECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT CONTROLS INFLATION, MARKET AND DISTRIBUTION UNDER THE JOSEON DYNASTY.
SAHUNBU – AN EXECUTIVE AGENCY UNDER THE JOSEON DYNASTY
POCHUNG – THE 'POLICE' UNDER THE JOSEON DYNASTY

And perhaps..

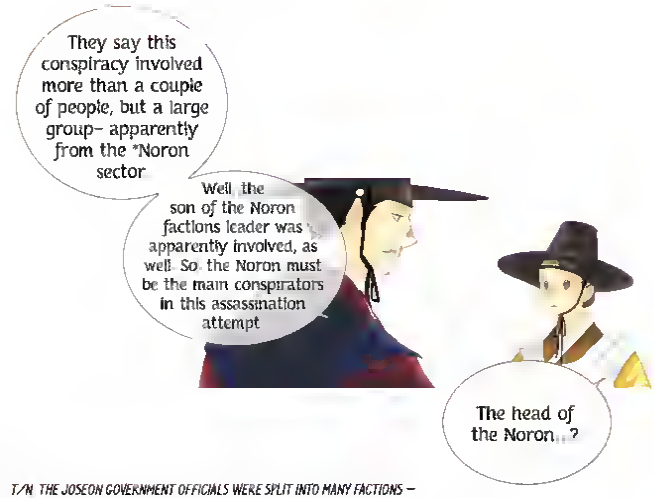
The last night that we'll spend together.

Deputy, Sir, someone from Kim Pan-Deuk is looking for you
Please tell him that I will be with him shortly.

At this pace, we might be able to set sail to Jeju in two days
Make sure to check the items carefully to see if anything is missing.
Yes.

Murmur
Murmur

The townspeople are troubled.
Did something happen?
Have you not heard the news yet? An assassin apparently sneaked into his majesty's room last night!
The palace has been in complete turmoil


They say this conspiracy involved more than a couple of people, but a large group- apparently from the *Noron sector
Well, the son of the Noron factions leader was apparently involved, as well. So, the Noron must be the main conspirators in this assassination attempt
The head of the Noron...?

T/N: THE JOSEON GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE SPLIT INTO MANY FACTIONS – JUST LIKE POLITICAL PARTIES. THEY EACH HAD DIFFERENT VALUES, WHICH LED TO HUGE FALLOUTS. THE NORON WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTIES BACK IN MANDUK'S TIME.

Yes, Jung
Do-Woong

I must meet him right now!! Please let me in!!
I said no, madam! The head of the Pyeongshiseo is not someone you can just meet randomly!!

Please, I beg of you, just say to him that Manduk is looking for him...

Please...
sobs

What?! Did you say Manduk?!
Is she someone you know?
Since she was desperately asking for you, I thought I should tell you...
Huh?
Sir!!

When was the last time?

I remember the young girl
Who cried out to her father
desperately all the time—

What is status?

What is law?

What are they to prevent me from calling you father?

Why is it that I cannot even meet you?

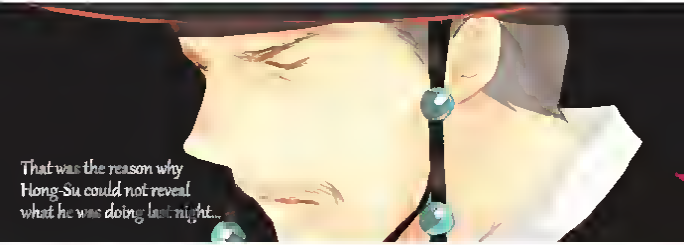
Why on earth are you here?!
H... Hong-Su...

Did you meet Hong-Su?
You were with him last night?!
Please, Save him...

Save him...
I beg of you...

She just passed out due to the shock. She will be fine after a long sleep.

So that was the reason...



A woman of Jeju
can only leave the island with
permission from his majesty
the king.

To be Continued.

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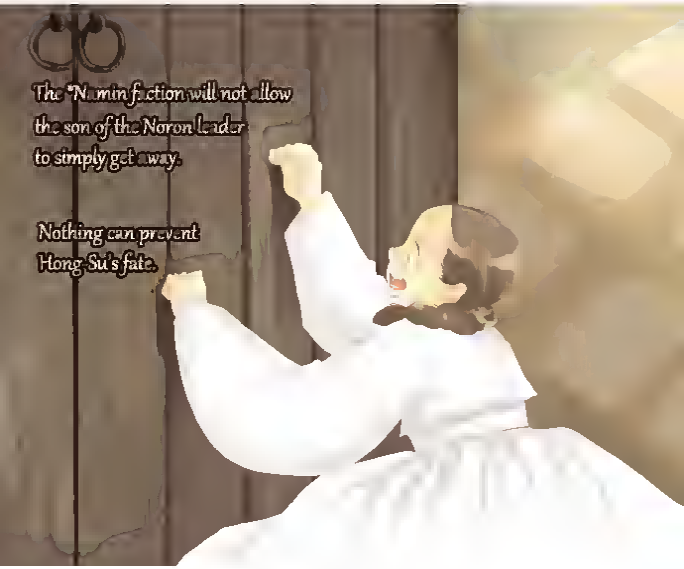
巨商 김만덕

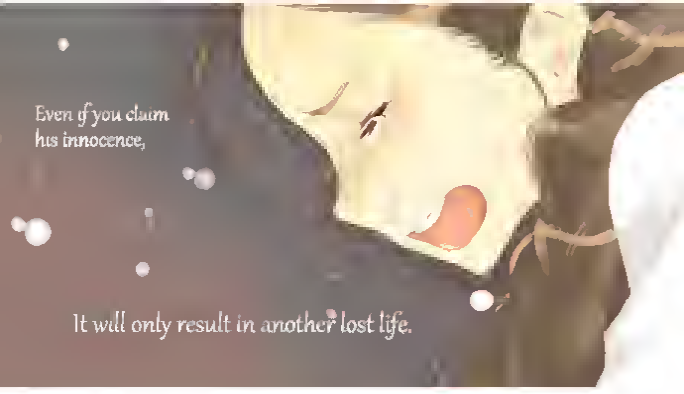
The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 27

Then...
I have no choice but
to protect you...

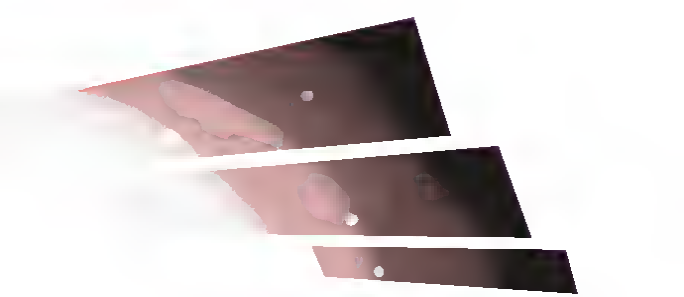
BANG
BANG
BANG
Please, open the door!! Open this door!!!
You must forgive me... This is all for your sake .
You must not open the door without my permission. Is that understood?
yes, Sir!!


The Numin faction will not allow
the son of the Noron leader
to simply get away.
Nothing can prevent
Hong Su's fate.


Even if you claim
his innocence,
It will only result in another lost life.

Forget him...
Only then,
you will be able to live.

Hong-Su...



Madame, the wind is cold
You should start heading back
Ah...

Yes... So, how is the situation?
It's just as you heard... Corpses among those who died of starvation daily were apparently piled high
And the ship carrying food aid wrecked, as well

How much grain do we have stocked in the East Peddler's Inn?
And how much money and items do we have to trade for grain?
What?

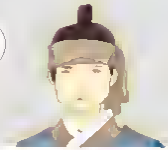
Still, Jeju has been in the cruel grip of famine for the last three years... And you say the Choong-Chung area was hit by a hurricane this year, as well?

Madame...
Surely you cannot be planning to...
We cannot afford to do such a thing!! Recently, our revenue hit a record low!!
If we are not careful, the East Peddler's Inn could shut down!
This is an investment.

If everyone on Jeju starved to death, who could we sell to?

We can save our Peddler's Inn only when we have saved the people of Jeju.

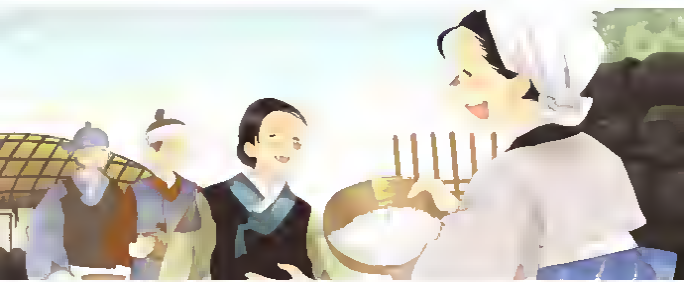
Madame...



Jeju's Great merchant Kim Manduk is giving out rice for free!!
She traded everything She had for that rice!!

Grandmother...

I am doing the right thing, yes?



This is the correct path?

Praise me, then,
grandmother.

Because I am
not a lowly woman,
nor a prostitute,
and neither
a merchant.

I am a 'person,'
Kim Manduk..

To be Continued..

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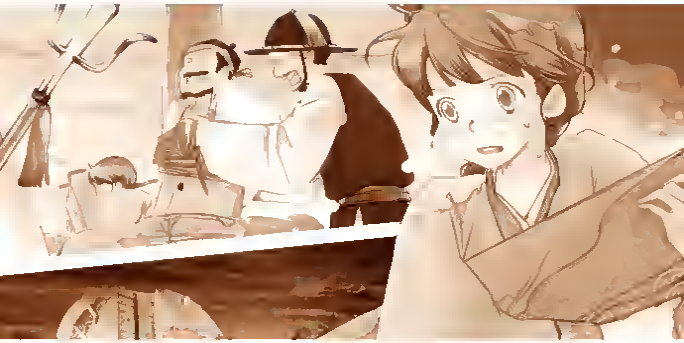
巨商 김만덕

The Great Merchant Kim Manduk

Chapter 28



Indeed, time has taken a
lot of things away...

Everyone that she has loved...

Youth...

The wind...

The memories...

But all those hardships
that were embedded into
Manduk's heart.

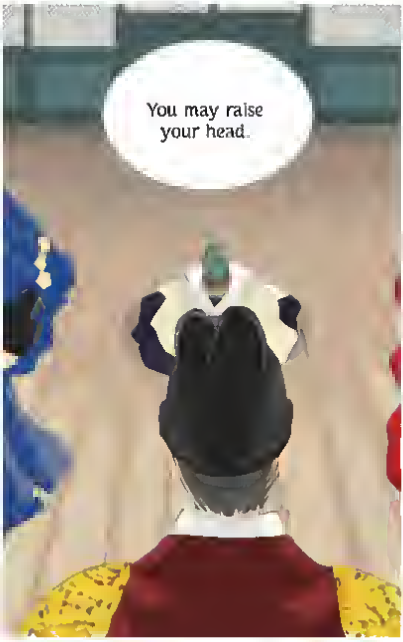
Made her strong.

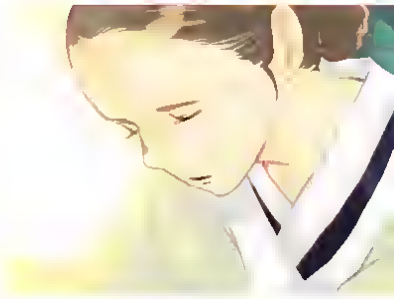
Through all those painful memories..

Manduk became a 'person.'

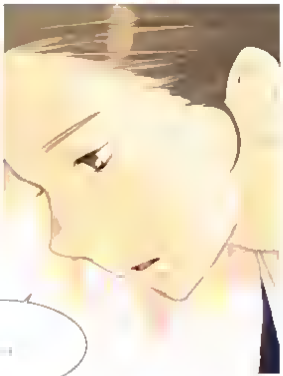
Even though you were born a woman, you displayed a great compassion, exceeding the barriers of your status to save a total of 1,100 lives

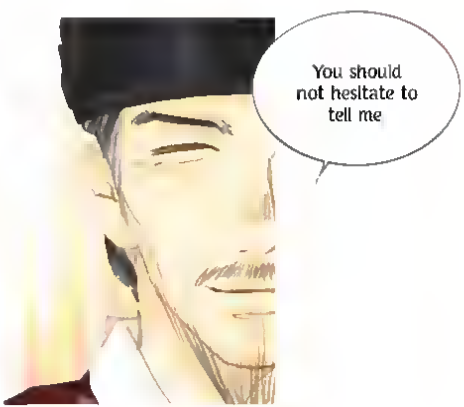
Your morality exceeds even all those with great power and wisdom.


You may raise
your head.



Beautiful.
Your heart, which has fed the starving stomachs of my people is beautiful.
I would like to reward you. Tell me anything that you would like.

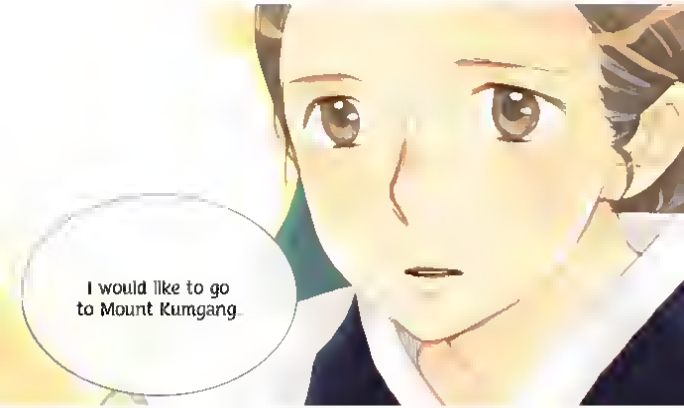

I...


You should not hesitate to tell me

A long time ago, because of the law that declared that all women from Jeju cannot leave the island without the permission of his majesty,

I lost someone who was more precious to me than my own life

Our dream, was to visit Mount Kumgang together

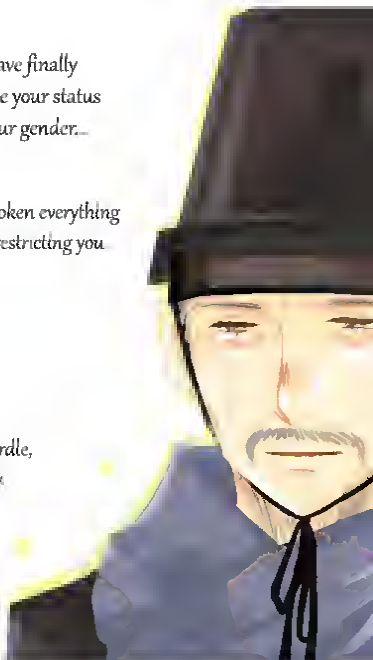

I would like to go
to Mount Kumgang.

Daughter...

You have finally
Overcome your status
and your gender...

You have broken everything
That was restricting you

You have passed every hurdle,
and are standing proudly



Isn't it strange?

I am still not sure whether
I am dead or alive.

Is this heaven?

I feel as if this body that has
stayed in this world without
you is dead.

And only the feelings
that I have sent away with you
are still alive and beating

Though...

What is the difference being
alive or dead?

The End

김 만 덕
金萬德
Kim Manduk

During the rule under Jeongjo, in the book that was published as <Beon-Ahm-Jib>, Manduk was described as the orphaned girl who was taken in as the daughter of a prostitute, and became a prostitute herself.

After some time, she realized that her status as a prostitute was shameful. After a successful petition, she regained her status as a Yang-In* and opened a peddler's Inn. She opened up trade between Jeju and the mainland while gaining incredible wealth.

In 1793, during the famine of Jeju Island, she traded everything she had to save the people of Jeju. She was highly praised as the woman who defied her status and gender to became a role model for successful merchants.

Jeongjo, who was extremely pleased with her and gave her the title of 'Uee-Nyeo-Ban-Su'**, made a special exception for her and let her visit Mount Kumkang.

*T/N: Yang-In – The status between a noble and a commoner
**T/N: A title that was awarded only for Manduk and means something like Female Doctor

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Story Shin Ji-Sang

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Original KBS

To everyone who have enjoyed 'The Great Merchant Kim Manduk',

I want to thank my readers who have waited for me
patiently during my three month break.

I'll definitely come back with another improved project next time ^^

Many thanks to the Story-planner Shin Ji-Sang, who have
created me a wonderful story. I hardly think that I would have
been able to create something like this on my on!

Another round of thanks to Editor Park Kwan-Hyung!
Thank you for looking after me right
until the end of this project.

And lastly I'd like to thank my husband and Author Son.

Because of Author Son's help, I managed to finish
this project in one piece.

++ To everyone who might be wondering about Kyum, he is already 5 months old! He's attempting a back-flip now!

++ The Great Merchant Kim Manduk will be published as two volumes around January, please give it some attention~!

++ To anyone who may be interested in my future projects, please visit

http://dochan1.blog.me

my naver blog!

Thanks and good bye!